

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 42

### **FINAL SITUATION REPORT**

1300 Hours January 24, 2006

*New Information in Bold Italics*

### SUMMARY

The Town of Big Stone Gap experienced water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions were coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition coordinating EMAC request related to Hurricane Katrina.

**State of Emergency:** On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** Southwest VA: Tuesday 24 January – Becoming partly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 50s, Southwest winds 5 to 10 MPH increasing to 15 to 25 MPH in the afternoon. Tuesday night – Partly cloudy in the evening, then mostly cloudy with a 20% chance of snow showers after midnight, low temperatures in upper 20s, West winds 15 to 25 MPH with gusts to around 40 MPH. **Wednesday 25 January** – 20% chance of snow showers in the morning, otherwise decreasing clouds, high temperatures low to mid 30s, Northwest winds 10 to 20 MPH. Wednesday night – Mostly clear, low temperatures mid teens to low 20s, Northwest winds 5 to 15 MPH.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:** Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)  
***VA National Guard placed 4 soldiers on State Active Duty 16 January to recover the two blivets located at Bullitt Park. All National Guard property has been recovered and the 4 soldiers were released from State Active Duty 18 January.***

#### INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
***VDOT recovered the four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area on 20 January and the VDOT tractor was recovered on 11 January.***

#### LOGISTICS SECTION

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

VDEM has received no additional request for resources and based on information from Wise County and Town of Big Stone Gap no request are anticipated.

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is **319 cubic feet per second**. *The water shortage situation in the Town of Big Stone Gap has shown significant improvement over the last several weeks and Town Manager George Polly held a press conference on 6 January to inform the residents and the general public that the water restrictions were lifted. The current level in Big Cherry Reservoir is 37.7 feet. The Town of Big Stone Gap estimates they have a 100 day supply of water in the reservoir which improved from a weeks supply when the water shortage started.* The burn ban for Wise County was lifted on 8 December and the burn ban for the Town of Big Stone Gap was lifted on 3 January.

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